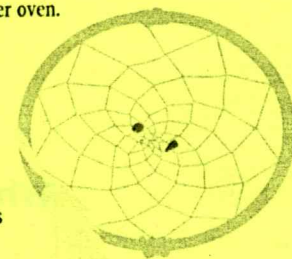


Arrowhead News

Welcome to our New and Returning Students

Congratulations and welcome back! Starting this fall, you will be joining (or rejoining as the case may be!) the swelling ranks of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students attending Concordia and we, the Centre for Native Education, are here to help you ease into university life. But what is the Centre for Native Education you ask? We are only THE definitive place to be: a welcoming space for all Native students, regardless of Nation, affiliations or personal beliefs. We offer a wide range of services, all tailored to your specific needs. In fact, there is almost nothing we would not do for students (the operative word here is almost.) Check out what you can find at the Centre for Native Education:

- A growing documentation centre filled with books on Native issues.
- A kitchen equipped with a coffee maker, a brand new microwave oven, a fridge and a brand new toaster oven.
- A photocopier, and access to phones and fax machine.
- A tv monitor and VCR/DVD player for those all important films you missed when you skipped class.
- A lounge and small dining area where you can meet people, relax or even take a nap.
- A board room that doubles as a study room, perfect for group projects.
- A computer room equipped with 3 new PCs and a printer where you can access your e-mail, the internet and library catalogues free of charge.
- A Native student agenda filled with information about Concordia's student services and other general services offered to Native people in the Montreal community.
- A billboard full of info on what's going on and job offers galore.



Coming this fall, a new improved downright awesome agenda

Our 2003-2004 Student Agenda is absolutely fabulous this year and we have many thanks to give to Martin Dubé and Tina Price who laboured to make it come through. This year, we are going the way of the future. The Agenda will not be available in hard copy but on CD in PDF format. You will also be able to download it from our website. Come and pick up your copy today and tell us what you think!

Apple picking season is near

The Centre for Native Education is planning its second annual apple picking outing to Deux-Montagnes. Students, friends and family are invited to join us on Friday, October 17 at 10:00. Children are definitely welcome! A bus will depart from the Centre for Native Education in the morning and will return around 3:00 pm. The trip is free of charge but bring some cash if you want to buy apples or other goodies. Space on the bus is limited so please RSVP as soon as you can by calling or dropping by the Centre for Native Education. And don't forget to wear warm clothes!

And last but certainly not least, friendly staff willing to listen to all your joys and sorrows and itching to solve those little sticky problems that invariably pop up in the course of your studies. Pretty impressive huh? But that's not all. There's the serious stuff: free coffee, free food, academic advising, troubleshooting bureaucratic messes (and some personal ones too), tutoring referrals, etc. Did we mention the free food and coffee? Read on to find out more about the Centre and Concordia.

Have a great academic year!
Manon Tremblay, Coordinator



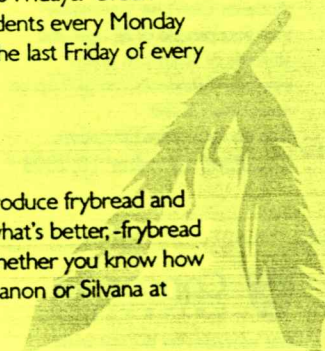
What's new at the Centre for Native Education

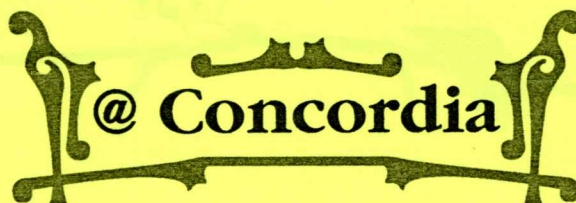
This may be old news to some returning students, especially those who visited us during the summer but those of you who know the Centre well are in for a shock when you see the lounge. Brand new sofas have been brought in as well as plants and there should be some new wall decorations in the course of the fall.

What is news is our new food programme. Starting this fall, we are introducing two regularly scheduled activities: Urban Bannock and Tea and Indian Taco Fridays. Urban Bannock and Tea is basically a free breakfast offered to all Native students every Monday morning. Indian Taco Fridays is just that: genuine (!) Indian Tacos on the last Friday of every month. We are also open to suggestions if people tire of the tacos!

Frybread vs Bannock

Indian Taco Fridays means that we will need volunteers to help us produce frybread and make chili. Come and settle once and for all the age old debate of what's better, frybread or bannock- and pick up an awesome chili recipe in the process. Whether you know how to cook or not, if you are interested in helping out, please contact Manon or Silvana at the Centre for Native Education.





Important dates to remember

Wednesday, October 1: Last day to apply for re-evaluation of courses taken during the Summer Session 2003

Friday, October 3: University Writing Test

Sunday, October 4: Replacement and supplemental examinations for Summer Session 2003 courses.

Monday, October 13: Thanksgiving Day. University closed.

Monday, October 27: Last day for academic withdrawal from fall-term courses.

The University Writing Test

In order to graduate, you must pass the University Writing Test. Although the Test is administered several times a year, students are highly encouraged to take it as soon as possible to detect any possible writing skills problems. The test can be taken as often as needed. Students who are unsure about their writing skills or who think they may benefit from taking an English class can bypass the University Writing Test by taking (and passing) ENGL 212. In order to register for any English course, you will need to take a placement test to find out which course is more suited to you. As a result, depending on your English language skills, you may have to take another course than ENGL 212 and work your way up. Whatever you decide to do, it is best to do it early in your degree. Your new writing skills will surely come in handy when you write all those papers!

And speaking of papers...

If you are **VERY** worried about your writing skills and if you are just sick at the thought of writing a paper, you may want to enlist the help of a writing assistant or a tutor who can help you structure your thoughts and put them down on paper more efficiently. Please contact the Centre for Native Education for more information.

Tutors

The same goes for any other subject where you are experiencing difficulty. Whether it's math or history, there are numerous potential tutors around campus who can help you. If you are a sponsored student, your education authority should pick up the tab.

Note the computer room at the Centre for Native Education is open at 9am to 5pm and will stay open from 5pm to 7pm weekly.

Where does all the money go?

Now that the academic year is started, many of our students are worried about unpaid school fees. At this point in time, the only thing you need to really worry about is that your education authority has sent an official letter to Concordia's Student Accounts Office stating that they are sponsoring you. You do not need to obsess over unpaid fees past the deadline, at least not yet! The Student Accounts Office will often not send out your bill to your sponsor until later in the semester. In other words, when it comes to third party billing, they operate on a different timeline.

However, it is not a bad idea to check every month or so whether your fees have been paid. If your fees have NOT been paid by late December, then worry! You will not be allowed to start a new semester if there are any outstanding fees from a previous semester – even if the amount is insignificant (**I was once deregistered because I owed \$5...**).

For students who are paying their own way, the rules are only slightly different. You also have until late December to pay your fees. However, after the deadline is past, interest rates will be charged to your account. If you are not paid up by January, your courses will be cancelled.

For those of you nearing graduation, please take note that all your fees must be paid up before your degree is conferred. In other words, you may have completed all the necessary requirements, but Concordia can withhold your degree if there is any outstanding balance.

Speaking of money...

The Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth offers scholarships of \$2000 to \$2500 to deserving post-secondary students. Don't let their name fool you: people of all ages and all fields of study can apply. Interested students can pick up an application at the Centre for Native Education. **Deadline: October 10, 2003**